

2004 Report of Accomplishments

Cowlitz Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2004 – Summary

- Improved riparian conditions on 10,000 feet of stream in the Abernathy Creek Watershed by planting 2,000 trees and shrubs. An additional 10,000 feet of riparian area has been prepared for planting in 2005.
- Watershed Voyages, a county-wide natural resource education program, provided learning experiences to more than 1,000 students.
- Sponsor for two fish passage improvement projects through the Family Forest Fish Passage Program.



Mission of the Cowlitz Conservation District

- The mission of the Cowlitz County Conservation District is to protect and improve the natural resources of the District and to guide resource development and use to provide the highest quality of life for present and future citizens.

Water Quality Implementation

- Our conservation partnership assisted 557 walk-in/call-in customers, conducted 39 field visits with landowners, prepared 10 conservation plans on 400 acres, and assisted 14 landowners with cost-share funding to improve natural resources.
- Continuing to monitor 32 stream temperature sites and six air temperature sites to assist with the TMDL process in Cowlitz County watersheds.

Basic Funding

- Cowlitz Conservation District uses its basic funding to help assure availability of services to the public and to meet increasing obligations for political representation. Basic funding supported dues to WACD and NACD, allowed the board to participate in the WACD annual meeting, and provided some overhead support. These activities directly support the district's capacity to put conservation on the ground by maintaining and improving the programs available to assist landowners.

Local Funding

- Implementing riparian improvements in the Abernathy Creek watershed with Cowlitz County.
- We continue to receive \$1,000 per year for administrative support from the County.
- We have entered into a project agreement with Cowlitz County to support the Watershed Voyages program with \$250,000 of County Title III funds.

Professional Engineering

- The District is serving as the local sponsor for two landowners that have been awarded project funding through the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. We have completed design drawings, obtained permits and are in the construction phase of two projects to improve fish passage.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Maintenance was conducted on the two existing contract sites encompassing 15 acres. One site was replanted with approximately 500 trees and shrubs.
- Met with one private landowner and the City of Kelso to discuss CREP opportunities.
- Working with the City of Kelso toward a 20-acre site in the Coweeman River watershed.

Dairy

- Working with one dairy that received an extension to complete practices in order to become certified.

- We are discussing the opportunity to work with all of our dairies more cooperatively on nutrient testing to better assess effectiveness of their waste application schedules at protecting water quality.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- Monitored effectiveness of several projects in the Arkansas Creek and Leckler Creek watersheds.
- Hosted watershed meetings in the Mill/Abernathy, Germany/Coal, Leckler/Whittle, Arkansas, Coweeman, Toutle, and Kalama watersheds. The meetings were designed as an informational series to discuss water quality and fish issues in local watersheds.
- Implementing the Abernathy Creek Riparian Restoration project. The project will restore riparian conditions on 4.5 miles of streambank.

Small Farm Programs

- Our conservation partnership assisted 557 walk-in/call-in customers, conducted 39 field visits with landowners, prepared 10 conservation plans covering 400 acres, and is assisting 14 landowners with cost share to improve natural resources.
- The District is placing emphasis on training opportunities for technicians in an effort to build a small farms program that may assist small farms to compete for available cost share programs that improve management practices and protect water quality.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Provided technical assistance to the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.
- Participated in meetings of the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group.
- Continued to manage the Watershed Voyages project which is collaboration with three other project sponsors to develop a single education/outreach project funded through County Title III funding.
- Assisted the DNR with the Longview 5th grade forestry field day program. More than 500 students participated in the program.
- Assisted the DNR Stewardship Forester and WSU Cooperative Extension to develop a local coached planning session in which landowners participate in a one-day-a-week, eight-week course to enable them to prepare their own forest stewardship plan.
- Coordinated with the Society of American Foresters, Campbell Group, and DNR to host a field tour for seven local teachers focused on salmon recovery efforts on industrial and non-industrial ownerships.

Information & Education

- Hosted annual plant materials sale and assisted over 400 landowners with information regarding suitable uses of available native plant materials. Sold plant materials to fifty-five landowners for conservation purposes.
- Participated in regional and state envirothon activities.
- Worked with 18 entities to coordinate activities in the natural resources building at the Cowlitz County fair. The efforts resulted in 428 children and their parents visiting the building for educational activities, 428 visits by senior citizens on seniors day, and over 200 adults. These efforts resulted in over 150 direct requests for addition information about conservation and the Cowlitz CD.
- Watershed Voyages, a county wide natural resource education program reached out to 22 classrooms and student groups and provided learning experiences to 1,091 students. Curriculum is being compiled or developed for educational activity modules under the umbrella of watershed management, forest management, fish and wildlife management, and water quality.



Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices